

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /051 W
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O R 222115Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7950

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BRASILIA 8194

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, BR

SUBJECT: STRONG REACTION TO CARTER'S CRITICISM OF BRAZILIAN
DICTATORSHIP

REF: BRASILIA 8007 NOTAL

SUMMARY: PRESS AND GOVERNMENT POLITICAL LEADERS HAVE SCORED
JIMMY CARTER'S REBUKE OF BRAZIL'S DICTATORSHIP AS INTRUSION IN
INTERNAL AFFAIRS, HYPOCRISY, OR EXPRESSION OF JEALOUSY OVER
BRAZIL'S RECENT INTERNATIONAL SUCCESSES. OPPOSITION LEADERS,
HOWEVER, HAVE NOTED THAT CARTER'S CLAIMS HAVE SOME BASIS. WHILE
CHARACTERIZING COMMENTS AS "RECKLESS AND UNETHICAL PROVOCATION,"
FOREIGN MINISTER STATED HE WILL NOT BE DRAWN INTO US ELECTION
CAMPAING AND REITERATED THAT BRAZIL WOULD GET ALONG WITH
NEXT US ADMINISTRATION, WHOEVER MAY BE ELECTED. CARTER'S
CRITICISM CAME AT MOMENT WHEN BRAZILIANS ALREADY UNEASY OVER
PROSPECTS FOR RETURN TO FULL DEMOCRATIC RULE AND WHEN GOVERNMENT
SEEKING TO PLAY UP PRESIDENT GEISEL'S VISIT TO JAPAN AS
FURTHER DEMONSTRATION OF BRAZIL'S ENHANCED INTERNATIONAL
ACCEPTANCE. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE SEND FULL TEXT OF
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CARTER'S REMARKS ON BRAZIL. END SUMMARY.

1. MAJOR BRAZILIAN NEWSPAPERS HAVE GIVEN FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE AND, IN SEVERAL CASES, SHARP EDITORIAL REBUTTALS TO CRITICISMS OF BRAZIL LEVELED BY JIMMY CARTER IN RECENT "PLAYBOY" INTERVIEW.

2. QUESTIONED BY JORNAL DE BRASILIA REPORTERS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING RETURN FROM JAPAN SEPTEMBER 21, FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA QUOTED AS COMMENTING THAT BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT IS NOT GOING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE US ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN BY MAKING COMMENTS OF ANY SORT ABOUT WHAT A CANDIDATE SAYS. ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF CARTER WERE ELECTED, SILVEIRA SAID, "WE WOULD GET ALONG WITH HIS GOVERNMENT. THERE WILL BE AN UNDERSTANDING WITH THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WHOEVER MAY BE THE CANDIDATE ELECTED." SILVEIRA ALSO QUOTED AS CHARACTERIZING CARTER'S COMMENTS AS "RECKLESS AND UNETHICAL PROVOCATIONS BECAUSE THEY ARE REFERENCES TO THE INTERNAL POLITICS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY."

3. PRESS HAS FOLLOWED UP WITH SELECTION OF COMMENTS ON CARTER'S STATEMENTS GIVEN BY GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION CONGRESSMEN. ARENA LEADER FRANCELINO PEREIRO REAFFIRMED BRAZIL'S "SOVEREIGNTY, INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM TO DECIDE ITS OWN DESTINY IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS OWN NEEDS." SOME ARENA CONGRESSMEN SUGGESTED CARTER CRITICISMS SPRANG FROM RESENTMENT OVER BRAZIL'S RECENT SUCCESSES IN EXPANDING INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS. SEVERAL OPPOSITION MDB CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS, HOWEVER, COMMENTED THAT CARTER'S CLAIMS THAT BRAZIL IS UNDEMOCRATIC HAD SOME BASIS AND THEY LAMENTED UNFORTUNATE IMAGE BRAZIL HAS ABROAD BECAUSE OF ITS FAILURE TO DEMOCRATIZE.

4. THE INITIAL EDITORIAL REACTION HAS BEEN UNIFORMLY CONDEMNATORY OF CARTER, THOUGH SOME MAJOR PAPERS HAVE STILL TO BE HEARD FROM. JORNAL DO BRASIL'S POLITICAL COLUMN, "JB", WONDERS IF CARTER HAD THESE IDEAS ABOUT BRAZIL WHY HE DIDN'T MENTION THEM WHEN HE WAS HERE ON A VISIT FOUR YEARS AGO AND WHY HE WENT SO FAR AS TO SEEK THE OPENING OF A BRAZILIAN TRADE CENTER IN ATLANTA. "JB" ALSO NOTES THAT CARTER'S DISTASTE FOR AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES WOULD AFFECT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RELATIONS WITH MOST OF SINGLE-PARTY STATES OF AFRICA, MUCH OF LATIN AMERICA AND ALL THE COMMUNIST WORLD. THE LEAD EDITORIAL IN JORNAL DE BRASILIA CHARGED THAT MANY OF DICTATORSHIPS IN LATIN AMERICA DISTASTEFUL TO CARTER WERE BROUGHT ABOUT IN PART BY EFFORTS OF US AGENCIES OR US BUSINESSES. THE EDITORIALIST TAKES NOTE OF THE US' OWN FAILURES OF DEMOCRACY AND FAIR PLAY IN RECENT YEARS AND CONCLUDES BY DOUBTING THAT CARTER WOULD REALLY CHANGE THE POSITION OF THE

US TOWARD COUNTRIES THAT DON'T EXERCISE AMERICAN-STYLE
DEMOCRACY SINCE THIS WOULD MEAN THE WEAKENING OF THE US
POSITION AMONG AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES OF ASIA, AFRICA AND
LATIN AMERICA, WITH THE US THE BIG LOSER.

5. COMMENT: COMING IN WAKE OF GOVERNOR CARTER'S CRITICISM LAST
SPRING OF THE US-BRAZIL BILATERAL MECHANISM AND AMBASSADOR
LINCOLN GORDON'S CRITICISMS LAST WEEK OF THE REVOLUTION
(REFTEL), THIS LATEST REBUKE HAS CONFIRMED SUSPICIONS AMONG
NATIONALISTIC BRAZILIANS THAT THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINEE HAS STRONG
RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE RECENT COURSE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN BRAZIL.
(NOTWITHSTANDING GORDON'S STATUS AS A
PRIVATE CITIZEN AND HIS PUBLIC ASSURANCES THAT
HE HAD NO CONNECTION WITH THE CARTER CAMPAIGN, GOOD PART
OF BRAZILIAN PRESS AND SOME ELEMENTS OF FOREIGN MINISTRY
PERSIST IN BELIEVING THAT, IN HIS CRITICISMS OF BRAZILIAN
INTERNAL POLITICS, GORDON WAS CONVEYING TO BRAZIL SPECIAL
PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM JIMMY CARTER.) AS SILVEIRA'S COMMENT
INDICATES, TO AVOID BEING DRAWN INTO PUBLIC POLEMIC
ITAMARATY'S TACTIC WILL BE TO REFUSE TO TAKE COGNIZANCE
OF STATEMENTS THAT DO NOT COME FROM OFFICIAL US
SPOKESMAN.

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6. CARTER'S CRITICISMS HIT HERE AT TIME OF ALREADY KEEN SENSITIVITY AND UNEASINESS, SINCE BRAZILIAN POLITICAL CLASS EITHER CONFUSED OR DISAPPOINTED BY PRESIDENT GEISEL'S PESSIMISTIC ASSESSMENT EARLIER THIS WEEK FOR PROSPECTS FOR FULL, LIBERAL DEMOCRACY FOR BRAZIL. (IN INTERVIEWS IN JAPAN, GEISEL SAW LITTLE POSSIBILITY OF CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM, INCLUDING THE END OF EXCEPTIONAL MEASURES, AMNESTY FOR THOSE IMPRISONED OR PROSCRIBED FOR POLITICAL REASON, OR THE ADVENT OF REAL DEMOCRACY UNTIL THE COUNTRY'S SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND INEQUITIES HAD BEEN DEALT WITH.) FOR MAY POLITICALLY-MINDED BRAZILIANS, IT'S HARD ENOUGH TO FACE UP TO THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE PRESENT AUTHORITARIAN SYSTEM WILL CONTINUE WITHOUT THE ADDED IRRITATION OF BEING REINDED OF THAT SYSTEM'S DEFICIENCIES BY OUTSIDERS.

7. AN ADDED ANNOYANCE TO THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT IS FACT THAT CARTER'S CRITICISM'S SOUNDED NEGATIVE INTERNATIONAL NOTE AT MOMENT WHEN PRESIDENT GEISEL'S TRIP TO JAPAN WAS BEING FEATURED AS ANOTHER TRIUMPH IN BUILDING BRAZIL'S PRESTIGE AND ACCEPTANCE ABROAD. EDITORIAL COUNTERATTACKS HERE SUGGESTING ULTERIOR MOTIVES OR JEALOUSY ON PART OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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US CANDIDATE ARE BEST UNDERSTOOD IN THAT CONTEXT.

8. EMBASSY HAS SEEN ONLY BRAZILIAN PRESS VERSION OF EXCERPTS FROM CARTER INTERVIEW AND WOULD APPRECIATE FULL TEXT. END COMMENT.
CRIMMINS

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